CLAIMS

1. A contents file play back permission method of permitting a contents file, which has been down loaded from a server to a terminal computer connected to the server through a communication network, to be played back by the play back software installed on the terminal computer, characterized in that both the play back software and the contents file can incorporate client IDs; the play back software is set such that it permits the play back of the contents file only when the client ID thereof agrees with the client ID incorporated in the contents file; when profile data is transmitted from the terminal computer to the server at the time the play back software is set up, the server transmits a client ID inherent to each play back software to the terminal computer through the communication network so that the client ID is incorporated in the play back software; and, thereafter, when the terminal computer accesses the server, down loads the contents file and stores it therein, the server incorporates the client ID of the destination, to which the contents file is down loaded, in the contents file.

2. A contents file play back permission method according to claim 1, characterized in that when the terminal computer accesses the server to down load the contents file, the server acquires the client ID incorporated in play back software of the

terminal computer having accessed the server.

3. A contents file play back permission method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that both the play back software and the contents file can incorporate user IDs, in addition to the client IDs, and the play back software is set such that it permits the play back of the contents file only when the client ID and user ID thereof agree with the client ID and user ID incorporated in the contents file, respectively.

4. A recording medium that has recorded play back software installed on a terminal computer connected to a server through a communication network and which plays back a contents file down loaded from the server, characterized in that the play back software incorporates a client ID previously transmitted from the server therein; when the contents file is down loaded, the play back software incorporates the client ID in the contents file before the contents file is played back; and when the play back software plays back the contents file, it compares the client ID incorporated therein with the client ID incorporated in the contents file and plays back the contents file only when both the client IDs agree with each other.

5. A recording medium that has recorded play back software for playing back a contents file according to claim 4, characterized

in that both the play back software and the contents file can incorporate user IDs, in addition to the client IDs, and the play back software permits the play back of the contents file only when the client ID and user ID thereof agree with the client ID and user ID incorporated in the contents file, respectively.

6. A recording medium that has recorded play back software for playing back a contents file according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that when the contents file is not played back, the recording medium displays a function such as a clock, or the like other than the contents file; and when a cursor is put on the display of the function, the display is changed to a display in a mode which is different depending upon whether or not a particular contents file is down loaded.